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Dr. L. S. Harrow

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September 28, 1960

H. Wickham

Patent Application on Ventilated PSP Cigarette

In our discussion of the novelty in the patent application for a PSP cigarette, Mr. Helferich pointed out that the triple X cigarette described in the memo of J. E. Wickham, Jr. to you, dated April 23, 1959, seemed to be identical with that patented by Burbig in the U. S. patent No. 2,819,720, dated January 14, 1958. This point was made by Mr. Helferich twice previously: once in his original patent search on this subject, dated August 20, 1959, and again in his letter to me, dated October 30, 1959, in which he commented on Wickham's memo. Thus, the PSP construction with a single hole in the chamber is described in the prior art.

The novel feature in the application which Mr. Helferich has prepared is "a multitude of small openings" which are achieved by the use of perforated tipping and mouthpiece papers. This scheme of achieving ventilation was first discussed, to the best of my knowledge, with Mr. Roper on or about June 11, 1959, immediately after my visit to Ecusta on June 8 and 9. This discussion undoubtedly was prompted by Seligman's memo to Roper regarding ventilation in the PSP filter, written on June 5, (undoubtedly erroneously dated May 5, because it refers to a telephone conversation occurring on June 4), in which the experiments by Wickham were described. Subsequent to my conversation with Roper, I received samples of the Ecusta perforated tea-bag paper which confirmed the feasibility of the idea in my mind and led to Roper's memo on imperceptible adaptation of the ventilation principle, dated June 16, and my letter to Dr. M. O. Schur, also dated June 16, 1959, requesting him to make perforated tipping and plug wrap for the ventilated PSP construction. This latter letter to Dr. Schur was in confirmation of a telephone conversation which I had with him regarding these samples.

In my conversations with Schur on June 8 and 9, no mention was made of perforated tipping. However, later when I requested some of it from him, he wrote a letter, dated June 19, pointing out they had prior art in the application of perforated tipping to ventilate the smoke.

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He mentioned over the telephone that they had a British patent and also patent application in the U. S. We subsequently located the British patent which described the use in filter tip cigarettes.

Hence, it seems clear to me that the idea of using Ecusta type perforated paper is only novel in connection with the PSP construction. It is on this basis that Mr. Helferich has prepared the application.

HW:br

cc: Mr. E. R. Helferich

*HWakeham*

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